April 28 is observed as Workers' Memorial Day to recognize workers who died or suffered because of injuries or hazardous exposures on the job. Across the nation, events held to pay homage to these workers, include vigils, awareness campaigns, workplace safety trainings and workshops. Information on Workers' Memorial Day events in Texas on April 28, 2017 can be found here.

Fatal work-related injuries and illnesses may lead to social and economic consequences including medical expenses, loss of earnings, and above all grief of losing a loved one.

Information on worker deaths is captured in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI), which compiles counts of all fatalities resulting from work-related injuries, but not illnesses. BLS administers CFOI in all 50 U.S. states including District of Columbia.
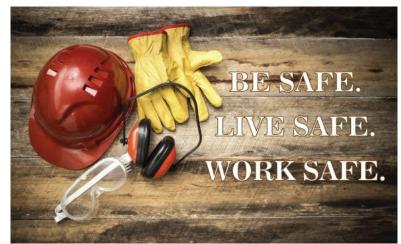

Photo source: *National Institute for Occcupational Safety and Health Science Blog*

CFOI data show that, during 2011-2015 in Texas:

- Total 2,535 people died on the job due to work-related injuries with an average 507 worker deaths each year.
- In 2015, Texas had the 12th highest work-related fatality rate in the nation.
- Two industry sectors - construction and transportation, warehousing and utilities - accounted for 41% (1,034) of all work-related injury deaths.
- Transportation incidents (1,139; 45%) were the most common event/exposure resulting in worker deaths.
- More than half (626; 55%) of the transportation incident deaths were among individuals working in transportation and material moving occupations.

More details on the characteristics of workers and fatality rates over time can be found in the report "Fatal work-related injuries in Texas, 2011-2015" available at https://www.dshs.texas.gov/epitox/reports/Fatal-work-related-injuries-in-Texas,-2011-2015.pdf.

For additional information, please contact Ketki Patel at Ketki.Patel@dshs.texas.gov or Emily Hall at Emily.Hall@dshs.texas.gov in the DSHS Occupational Health Surveillance Program. Thank you!